

i am a musician/performer, a recording artist, a concerned citizen, and a media consumer. i/we have a small label. i/we have to do all of our own promotion work and are locked out of the system owned and operated by these mega-monopolies that have been allowed to control what most people see and hear.

i am a solo act as well as a member of 2 different bands. i have personally written something over 100 songs. we currently have 5 cd's available to purchase. hits??? who can have one of these when the system doesn't allow anyone who is not a clone of the corporate model to get the kind of promotion which would result in a "hit." again, we have our own label, Is Too Records. we put on self-promoted concerts on average once per month. our shows are all local, but we're attempting to expand, and are planning a small tour of holland in april 2005. we're part of the arty-farty, improv, prog, rock/jazz crowd in the s.f. bay area.

we have sent out numerous cd's to local stations. you couldn't get air play on the commercial stations if your life depended on it. we have been played locally on college stations, kpfa, and local npr. i'm not aware of "featured local talent" shows on any local commercial channel.

again, we don't get commercial air play because we're not signed by one of the big 5, nor do we have connections with their distribution and promotion networks. we do not fit their market paradigm even though we do produce good quality music and have a following.

outside of the college stations, npr, and kpfa, none of the broadcasters serve the local community well. that is unless you want to buy a chevrolet or listen to some right-wing crackpot wank off about why you should hate everyone and everything.

they're our air waves. screw the market. why don't they have open opinion polls annually where anyone in an area could voice their opinion as to what they would want. i think they'd be surprised with the results. but, then again, i don't think the fcc wants to consider anything outside of their market mentality.

at least some of a day's air play should be programmed annually. npr does this very well. why can't the commercial stations do likewise?

local programming should reflect the locality. news, public affairs, the arts, music, etc., whatever. if your locality digs hogs, then there should be hog programming.

these are the kind of things that one would expect a corporation to do to enhance their public image. what does this have to do with the air waves? apples and oranges. i mean, a local station could have a fund raiser for a right-wing hate group posing as a church and call that paying their dues. i say no way!!!

this whole payola thing is in the news again. but the point seems to be missed: the payola scam just re-inforces the monopoly that the big 5 have over the majority of the system. this is their capitalist answer to fair access. the whole system needs to be restructured. quality programming should always be the goal. but who decides what quality is? somehow we've come to the idea that only things that sell have any quality. i would point out that many famous artists would not "make it" in the current market due to their being out of the mainstream paradigm.

as far as paying to get played on any level: some club owners have been charging bands to play their venues. so the bar owner makes money off his alcohol sales no matter what. he charges a door fee. and he charges the band to play. the band spends money and time to promote the event. provides the product, labor, etc. and receives what??? these radio station guys make an awful lot of money. dj's often make salaries in the 6 figures.

the greed of this system is just amazing.

no voice tracking. don't use that technology which speeds up and/or
cancels out small silences. give us something real for god sakes.

how does a "local" station, which is merely a transmission site for a
corporation, going to react? break up the monopolies. restrict the number
of stations which can be owned. allow micro-watt transmission. satellite
radio is coming on line anyway. why not just send these guys packing to the
satellite and then people who want that canned crap can go pay them for it?

this system needs to expand exponentially. real democracy, real localism,
real public use of the air waves would follow.

thanks. i guess.